

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Post-harvest protection and preservation methods

1365. DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there are heavy post-harvest losses to farmers;
- (b) whether application of post-harvest protection and preservation methods is badly needed to minimize these losses; and
- (c) if so, what are Government's plans in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) While the exact quantum of post-harvest losses is not known, different studies have indicated varying degree of post-harvest losses in foodgrains. For example,

- A Committee headed by Dr. V.G. Panse in its report submitted in 1968, had estimated annual post-harvest losses in foodgrains in various stages at 9.33%.
- A survey conducted by Directorate of Marketing and Inspection, Government of India, during 1973-74 had estimated post-harvest losses in foodgrains to be about 5%.
- A joint study conducted by Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute and Indian Grain Storage Management and Research Institute during 1985-88 had estimated total post-harvest loss in wheat at about 4.12%.

In case of fruits and vegetables, according to a Sub-Working Group on Post Harvest Management, Marketing and Export for the 9th Plan, the wastage of fruits and vegetables ranges from 8.37% at various stages of handling after harvesting, due to inadequate post-harvest infrastructure and lack of cool chain handling like pre-cooling, reefer vans, etc.

- (c) In order to reduce losses to foodgrains during the post-harvest

period, the Government of India launched Save Grain Campaign in 1969-70. Training, demonstration and publicity in the field of scientific storage of foodgrains at the farm level, improvement of grain storage structures and other activities are carried out by the Save Grain Campaign for the benefit of farmers.

The National Horticulture Board (NHB), which is an autonomous body under the Ministry of Agriculture, is implementing the following schemes for strengthening the post-harvest management infrastructure and minimizing post-harvest losses:—

- (i) Capital investment subsidy for construction/expansion/modernisation of cold storages and storages for horticulture produce;
- (ii) Development of commercial horticulture through production and post-harvest management of horticultural products.

Poultry industry in Andhra Pradesh

1366. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh Government has urged the Union Government to protect the poultry industry from disaster in that State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the State Government has also requested the Union Government to impose anti-dumping duty on import of chicken and chicken meat products; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The major thrust of the Andhra Pradesh Government is to protect poultry industry by imposing anti-dumping duty of 150% on import of chicken and chicken meat products. The request of the State Government has been forwarded to the Directorate General of Anti-dumping under Ministry of Commerce, which is the designated